private first-class baths in the upper stories. In this part there are ten apartments of good proportions, each fitted with a bath for first-class bathers. There are thirty-three private bath-rooms for second and third-class bathers, which are designed so as to occupy a space above the dressing-closets of the large swimming baths. These private bath-rooms are each 9 feet square, and are furnished with looking-glasses and other requisites. The frames of the looking-glasses, and the hooks for hanging hats and clothes, are of glazed earthenware, and are, in consequence, kept in a state of cleanliness with little trouble. The handles of the doors are also of white earthenware, and each handle has figures in black, to denote the number of the room. The baths are made of Stourbridge clay, and are glazed in the interior.

The first class swimming-bath is 33 feet 6 inches long, and 26 feet wide; and the second and third class bath is 42 feet long, and 26 feet wide. These two baths are each contained under a separate roof, and the entrances are distinct. Portland cement is the material which has been used for the lining of the swimming-baths. We are informed that a simpler plan will be adopted at the baths which the corporation are about to build in Hyde-Park-street: bricks glazed on the side coming into contact with the water, will be built in cement, so that no additional internal coating will be required. A residence for the superintendent is attached. The cost of the whole is said to be 10,000*l*. The washing department is quite distinct from the baths, and will be entered by doors and passages at some distance from those leading to the baths: the ground-floor and a fireproof upper gallery of a spacious apartment are being prepared for the purpose. The washing-places will be each 5 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 6 inches, divided from one another by wooden divisions. We fear these divisions will prove rather perishable, and should have preferred the use of slate, as in London. The number of washing-places will be 88, of which 14 will be first class, 24 second class, and 50 third class. The apparatus for drying the clothes is being supplied according to the plans of the Patent Desiccating Company. By their process the articles are first put into a hydro-extractor, which is a perforated iron box made to revolve at so great a velocity (1,400 revolutions per minute, we believe) that the greater portion of moisture is thrown off by centrifugal force; in this partially dried state the articles are subjected to the heat of a stove, which soon evaporates the small quantity of moisture which remains.

MR. G. DONALDSON'S PLAN FOR REMOVING THE MUD FROM THE SERPENTINE.

THE only objections which I have ever heard urged to the correction of the evil under notice, so far as the removal of the filth from the Serpentine is concerned, have been—

First, the danger to public health that would attend the exposure of the mud.

Second, the heavy expense that the operation would entail.

Now, neither of these objections can any longer be raised, a plan by which they are wholly obviated having been furnished to the Commissioners of Sewers by their agricultural surveyor, Mr. Donaldson. I became possessed of the document through the courtesy of Mr. Hertslett, until recently the much respected secretary to the commissioners; and I now hand you the pith of it. JOHN LILWALL.

"I propose to lay down, temporarily, a two feet pipe from the Ranelagh Sewer into the lower end of the Serpentine, where it is deepest, and to enclose a space about 16 yards in length by 4 in width over the end of the pipe in the river with strong boarding up to the level of the water, into which I mean to discharge the mud by means of barges, to be flushed through the pipe into the sewer, and thence into the river Thames, where there being already millions of cubic yards of mud of a much more objectionable quality, the addition of the few thousands of yards of mud we have here is of very little consequence.

And for taking up the mud I propose to have two barges coupled together side by side about 10 feet apart, bearing between them a square wooden tube 6 feet in width, 4 feet in depth, and 60 or 70 feet in length, the one end of it resting on pivots upon the two barges, the other being suspended by a crane or windlass with tackle for raising or lowering it, as may be necessary according to the depth of the water and mud; both ends of this tube being open, and when one end of the tube is let down into the mud, the barges being propelled forward, the tube will shovel up the mud, which, sliding up the inside of the tube, will drop into a tender at its upper end: by this tender the mud will be carried and discharged into the hoarding over the outlet pipe. Several tenders will be requisite for this purpose." The cost was estimated at about 1,100*l*.

GOTHIC *versus* CLASSIC.

THE LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

Two meetings of this society have been occupied by a discussion of the question, "Whether Gothic or Italian architecture was most suitable to the general purposes of the present age and country?" It was opened by Mr. Barry, in favour of Gothic. Mr. Horner advocated Italian, as did also Mr. C. Reed. Mr. Rimmer and Mr. Boult supported the opener. The chairman, Mr. Picton, said that a great deal depended upon the association of ideas. It was only a man of cultivated taste that could relish architecture. The painter and sculptor, with his mind imbued with classical ideas, would naturally give the preference to the Italian style. On the other hand, the man who had dug deep into the mines of English history would turn with admiration to the Gothic. But he thought the Italian would recommend itself to any mind previously unbiassed and unprejudiced. A great deal had been said with respect to Gothic villa; and he was inclined to think that much that had been said was intended to apply to Elizabethan style, which was quite as much Italian as Gothic. He challenged opposition when he said that for almost any purpose for which building was required in the present age the Italian style was superior to the Gothic. The discussion was renewed on the second evening, and, on a show of hands, the society decided in favour of the Gothic by eighteen to twelve.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES, WHITECHAPEL.

WE have received from the Committee of the Model Establishment of Public Baths and Washhouses, Goulstone-square, Whitechapel, a register of the number of the washers, and the time occupied, with the description and the number of the articles washed, dried, and ironed during the week ending November 23, 1850. The total number of articles was 18,444, to dry which, 85 bushels of coke sufficed, at a cost of 1*l*. 8*s*. 4*d*.

The following statement, forwarded to us by Mr. Woolcott, showing the results after washing, wringing, and drying, at the "Model Establishment," is interesting:—

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLES.	Weight when dirty and before being Washed.		Weight after being Washed.		Weight after the Wringing Process.		Weight when taken from the Drying Chamber, Dry.		Time employed Wringing.	Time employed Drying.	Temperature of the Drying Chamber.
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	Minutes.	Minutes.	Degrees.
Twelve Bathers' Towels	7	11	16	12	11	12	6	12	2	30	200
Ditto	7	13½	16	15	11	13	6	14½	2	25	210
Ditto	7	15	17	1½	11	14½	6	15½	2	35	190
Three Fine Sheets	4	15½	13	2	8	4	4	3½	2	15	180
Three Middling ditto	5	4	14	1	8	3	4	12	2	25	190
Three Coarse ditto	7	8	16	2	9	0	6	15½	2½	30	190
Three Small Blankets	6	15	22	15½	9	10½	6	3	2	15	200
Ditto	6	10	21	4	9	1	6		2½	15	200
Three Large ditto	9	1	24	14	12	3	8	12	3	25	210

EXTENSION OF PALL MALL.

THE charge of inaccuracy objected by "W." demands a short rejoinder. He asserts that "Lord Ellesmere's house, so far from ranging with the north side of Pall-mall, would stretch about half across the opening, and thus interfere with the realisation of the sylvan vision of Quondam."

Now, the fact is not so—for the south-east angle (the most prominent) advances just 25 feet before the range of the said north side: at its termination, Pall-mall is 66 feet wide (opposite to Marlborough House), and there are two houses in St. James's-street, which, looking eastward, front the chaussée—that at the corner (the St. James's-chambers) has a frontage of 47 feet, and Graham's Club 21 feet.

If the former only were razed, there would be an opening of 41 feet, in view from the other extreme of Pall-mall, and at that distance Lord Ellesmere's mansion would be hardly perceptible except from its altitude; but if Graham's Club were also removed, then the portion of the very elegant structure before referred to would form a not undignified nor inappropriate final block to the noble thoroughfare in contemplation, and the characteristic finish of just that portion of the edifice would seem to indicate, that the architect had some prescience of the opening suggested; for the ornate portion of the east flank extends but 26 or 27 feet.

The antiquated and mean character (for that location) of the houses, points out the expediency of modernizing, if not of clearing them away altogether. Should such clearance be made, one of the finest piazzas of the town would surround the Old Palace, which, in its turn, must undergo some transformation consistent with the progress of taste and the spirit of the time,—alterations which should humiliate the aspirations of the noble Sutherland Palace, and the still more florid pretensions of Lord Ellesmere's, which at present is beyond compare the most finished production of recent domestic architecture in London.

From the centre of Pall Mall no greater vista could be attained than an aperture of 41 feet might disclose, yet on nearing Marlborough House, the whole width of the Large of the palace comes into the field of vision, and an opening of above 80 feet in front of Lord Ellesmere's (between that and the southward block of houses facing the Green Park) would reveal the park as far as Buckingham Palace, and the trees of the gardens, as a background (if you will excuse the Hibernicism) or a "sylvan vision." QUONDAM.

THE RESTORERS OF LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL.

I HAVE only just seen—being absent from home when the monthly part arrived—your notice of my work on Llandaff Cathedral. I hasten, therefore, to correct, through your means, an erroneous impression into which an inadvertent expression of mine, in page 93, may perhaps have led you. I ought to have mentioned Mr. Wyatt as having been employed upon the restoration as well as Mr. Prichard. I believe that the work was commenced by the latter alone, and is now continued by them as joint architects.

The omission was a very pardonable one, as Mr. Prichard, being resident on the spot, and being in close communication with myself, was naturally much more in my thoughts; and indeed, speaking without professional precision, the work might be much more strictly said to be "under his superintendence" alone. Still, as Mr. Wyatt had a share in the design, and as his name is mentioned as joint architect in Mr. Cliffe's Book of South Wales, and in the Dean of Llandaff's paper, printed in the "Archæologia Cambrensis," I ought not to have made the omission.

I do not see that I have done Mr. Wyatt any wrong; but, in case he should be of a different opinion, I have taken this first opportunity of reparation. I have freely pointed out a few respects in which I do not agree with the restorers; but the work, as a whole,

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